

<b>Subject:</b>	Arthur Jacob Nature Reserve and Poyle Poplars – update for Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel
<b>Reason for briefing note:</b>	Responding to the Panel’s request for an update on his Nature Reserve.
<b>Responsible officer(s):</b>	David Scott, Head of Communities, 01628 796748 Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Manager
<b>Senior leader sponsor:</b>	Russell O’Keefe, Executive Director Place
<b>Date:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2020

www.rbwm.gov.uk



## SUMMARY

This purpose of the report is to provide an update on the Arthur Jacob Nature Reserve and Poyle Poplars, in Horton, one of 8 Local Nature Reserves (LNR’s) in the borough. The site is owned by the Royal Borough and managed in partnership with Groundwork South. The site is named after the local ward member former Councillor Arthur Jacob, who was very involved in the creation of the site as a local nature resource.

The Panel is requested to note that the site is a good example of a valuable wildlife habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna, as well as an important local open space well used by residents for outdoor recreation and exercise, from what was once a derelict and disused site.

Management of the site is undertaken primarily by volunteers, co-ordinated by the Council’s partner Groundwork South, which is a cost-effective way of involving the local community in the management of the site.

The Arthur Jacob Nature Reserve was opened in 1996 and was declared a Local Nature Reserve in 1999. The site was created from a series of derelict sewage sludge lagoons, which were decontaminated, and the site was then transformed into an important wildlife area and public open space. The Colne Brook runs adjacent to the site, which lies within the Colne Valley Regional Park.

In 2009 the site was expanded when the Royal Borough purchased 15 acres of adjacent woodland, bringing the total size of the site to a little over 38 acres.

The site includes a network of circular walks, benches, information boards, and wildlife viewing platforms. Pedestrian access to the site is from Stanwell Road, between Horton and Poyle.

The overall site comprises a mosaic of wildlife habitats, including poplar and willow woodlands, wildflower meadows, the lagoons and the river corridor.

Notable plant species include Bee Orchid and Cowslip, as well as various mosses and lichens. The lagoons and watercourse provide habitat for many species of waterfowl, and Cuckoos are frequently heard in the Spring.

The Council’s Parks and Countryside Service also works with Groundwork South, as well and other partners such as the Windsor and Maidenhead Conservation Volunteers, and the ‘Ways into Work’ team, to manage 8 other Local Nature Reserves across the borough.



Volunteers co-ordinated by Groundwork South undertake much of the practical work involved in managing the site, with some larger tasks undertaken by contractors.



Windsor Castle

Arthur Jacob Nature Reserve

Dark Blue –Ward Boundary

Purple – Borough Boundary

From an Overview and Scrutiny Panel perspective, there is nothing about the operation of this popular nature reserve that needs active involvement or specific action, but it is worth noting the long term benefits that have been achieved since the site was created back in the 1990's, and the ongoing joint working that supports the site with volunteers and the borough's partners who are actively involved.



### Site Map - AJNR

